

CHRISTMAS IN EAST WHERE MAGI FOLLOWED THEIR STAR

PORTRAYED BY WOMEN OF NATIONS ATTENDING PARLEY

PERSIAN OBSERVANCE OF DAY IS DESCRIBED BY WASHINGTON GIRL

Interviewer Finds That China, by a Strange Coincidence, Has Made December 25 Her National Holiday in Celebration of the Revolution That Gave Her a Republican Form of Government. Japanese Commemorate the New Year.

By VIRGINIA STUART.

MANY varied nationalities are represented in the circles of foreigners attending the Conference on Limitation of Armaments, and just at the time when Americans are planning the celebration of the great festival of all the Christian nations of the earth it does not seem amiss to sketch the various fancies and customs of those who, like the wise men of old, come from afar.

Christmas in the East, where the Magi followed the Star of Bethlehem, and in those countries where the gospel was carried only after it had spread through Europe and the New World, led me to interview some of the notables in Washington for descriptions of the fete as it is celebrated in their native lands.

In the rose-tinted reception room at the Cairo, Madame Tyau, wife of Dr. M. T. Z. Tyau, gave a graphic description of the holidays in her native land. Madame Tyau's name is Tsailwan Yen Tyau, the first two being her maiden name, to which is added the last name of her husband.

Born in China and educated in the city of Shanghai, her schooling was completed in the United States at Oberlin College. In recent years she has accompanied her husband on a tour of the world, visiting England, France and Germany just before coming to America. Very young in appearance with her slender figure gowned in the simple robes of her nation, she is a most attractive personality and an interesting conversationalist.

Is National Holiday.

"While we have no universal religious festival to correspond to Christmas here, yet it is strange to say that in China the 25th of December is a national holiday. This celebration is of recent date and was occasioned by the fact that it was on that day a few years ago that a rebellion was started against the then president, who was trying to make himself emperor.

"In 1912 China was governed by President Tuan, but wishing to assume the role of emperor, he in December, 1915, was resisted by one of our generals, who fell and died of a broken heart, but the Republic was saved.

"So it is that in China on your Christmas day we will be rejoicing, too, over what is now our national holiday, like your Fourth of July.

"There being many different religious sects in China, the various feasts are celebrated by each one at a different time. The birthday of Confucius, our great philosopher, comes in October and is a holiday in the modern schools.

"Our New Year is in February,

at which time there is a general gathering of families, feasting, toys are presented to children and a great deal of entertaining at dinner goes on for three weeks. During five days of this time the shops are closed and no papers printed, so that all may be able to rest and enjoy themselves.

"Another feast which follows is that of the Lanterns, when the homes are illuminated by many beautifully colored lanterns of various shapes of flowers, fishes, animals and birds. We have also then processions, in which the lanterns are borne through the streets by gaily dressed people, forming a bright and attractive spectacle.

"The Chinese Easter, or spring celebration, comes just about the time of yours in this country. It is called Tsing-Ming, which means pure and bright. At this time the old-school Chinese go to their family tombs for ancestor worship, hence it is commonly known as 'grave cleaning day.'

"Of course, this feast is not celebrated by the Christian Chinese in this manner, for all sects have their own ways of anniversary remembering. Later on there is the feast of the Dragon Boat, in which persons row about rivers in boats with dragon head prows, and enjoy themselves by feasts. Then we have the harvest feast, which is in the Chinese August—your September—and a little later an Arbor day—which is in October—for the planting of trees. There is no universal day of rest in China to correspond to Sunday in Christian lands, but the religious festivals are each celebrated by the members of various sects according to their own customs."

Madame Tyau is a Christian, her father having been a minister and for a time the pastor of a church, which he built and in which he was buried.

Mme. R. Taji is the wife of the Japanese commander attending the delegation to the conference from his native land. She is an English girl—was born in London, and met her husband when he was a student at the naval school in England. Having lived for several years in the land of her adoption, she gives an

THEY TELL OF OTHER FETES



MADAME TYAU, who explains why December 25 is a national holiday in the Country of Confucius, is shown above. The picture at the bottom of the group is the great hall of the palace of the Persian Shah, where he holds his great fetes.

interesting description of the New Year there.

"Just as preparations for Christmas are in full swing in this great big America, so the little land of Cherry Blossoms heartily welcomes

the New Year. Before long every house in Tokyo, great and small, will bear outward signs of the approaching festival—two dignified

little evergreen trees will stand in solemn state, one on each side of the gate-post. And in the center a rope entwined and forming a ring,

ABOVE—Madame E. R. Taji, wife of the Japanese naval commander attending the conference, and her two children, John Hamilton and little Yurie. She gives an account of the New Year celebration in Japan. In the circle is Miss Dorothy Caldwell, daughter of the former minister to Persia.

with a large orange and a bright red shellfish and white paper streamers, which bears a sign of

JAPANESE OBSERVE NEW YEAR AS THEIR GREATEST FESTIVAL

Island Kingdom Celebrates Beginning of Year, Having No Christmas, When Toys Are Given to Children and Families Gather for Feasting. Chinese Have More Festivals Than Almost Any Other Nation

welcome to all entering the portals.

"The shops will be displaying exquisite gifts of silks, sashes, toys, and novelties, and all are looking happy in anticipation of the joys to come. On the first day of the year every one dons their newest and daintiest clothes, and there is no prettier sight to be seen than the little girls, in their gay komonos, dainty sashes, and hair-bows carrying 'hane' (battledore and shuttlecock), beaded with elaborate silks in bright colorings. Happiness radiates from their little faces—in fact, in no country are children happier than in Japan, the land of flowers and sunshine.

"On this day of days every house will be spotless and polished bright as a new pin, and feasting is everywhere. Guests calling at any hour are offered tempting dishes of fish, soups, and many kinds of delicious candies, and always the roasted 'mochi,' or rice cake. All these little dishes are daintily served on tiny lacquer trays. To foreigners visiting Japan this feast is very delightful.

EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY.

"In a few words, the New Year is to us—one long 'eat, drink, and be merry.'"

Miss Dorothy Caldwell, daughter of Hon. John L. Caldwell, former minister to Persia, writes about the New Year at the Persian court for The Times. Miss Caldwell spent two years in Persia, having joined her father there before finishing her school course in America. A girl of unusual ability, she displays a knowledge of countries and diplomatic affairs not often seen in a young girl.

"The Persian day which is most similar to our Christmas is the New Year or 'No-Rug,' as they call it. Although their months are governed according to the lunar calendar and the holidays come ten days earlier each year than they did the preceding one, yet the New Year is a stationary date. And it always falls on the 21st of March.

"The Persians tell you that the winter is ended with the arrival of this day and that there will be no more snow and cold. They are usually right, too, for it really marks the arrival of spring weather. The gardeners place huge jars containing lemon and oleanders throughout the gardens, so there is a decided note of green in the landscape.

"Then every one sends every one else flowers. And there is an exchange of gifts of all kinds, especially candies, which are generally made by the Persian ladies themselves and are most agreeable delicacies.

"The festivities last for thirteen days altogether. The first three, however, are the most important. During this period people call on all their friends at designated times. The Persians are very generous and hospitable and they always insist upon your taking at each visit of tea, sweets and sherbet. So people feel quite proud if, at the end of a holiday, they have had only twenty-one cups of tea.

"Perhaps the greatest event of the season is the Shah's 'Salaam.' On the morning of the 21st he receives all the foreign ministers. When this ceremony is over, he ascends the throne. This is a beautiful alabaster and is on a platform, which opens upon a large court. In this the troops are all congregated and it is here that, at the close of the ceremony, they parade before the eyes of the king. The prime minister delivers an address in behalf of the cabinet, and the poet laureate recites an original poem in praise of the Shah.

The Persian officials in their flowing cashmere robes look very striking. And the troops are very picturesque in their scarlet and blue uniforms with cartridges across their chests and huge, sheepskin caps which give them a very warlike appearance. The bands play the national anthem and the ceremony ends with the soldiers shouting 'Long live His Majesty.'

"On the thirteenth day every one dons their new clothes (for everybody must have new clothes for this holiday), and takes a promenade outside the city walls. And thus the Persians say that they 'take out the Old Year and bring in the New.'"

Aerial Caravan Latest British Air "Express"

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Caravaning by air is the latest flying idea.

A well-known British firm of aviation engineers has been asked by a merchant to redesign a passenger plane for use as a luxurious private aerial caravan.

One of the latest British "air expresses" is being used for this purpose. The big, long cabin is to be converted into a comfortable miniature drawing-room, with armchairs, tables and a bureau, at which the traveler can conduct his correspondence while his 100-mile-an-hour "caravan" is in flight.

At the rear of the living room will be comfortable sleeping accommodation for the owner and for his pilot-secretary, for it is the intention when necessary to have meals in the machine and to sleep in it. The plane will be landed, and made snug, and the night spent on the spot.

ART OF MADONNAS HERE IS PORTRAYAL OF TRUE CHRISTMAS

Victor Flambeau Describes Art of Old Masters Adoring the Virgin and Child.

(Continued from First Page.)

hell. The late Cardinal protested to the Pope.

"I am sorry," said the Pontiff, with some humor. "If he had only put you in purgatory I could have got you out; but as you are in hell there is nothing I can do about it." And there the Cardinal remains, in the picture, to this day.

In our National Gallery we have one early "Nativity," representing the birth of the Saviour, and doubtfully attributed to Otto van Veen, a Flemish painter living from about 1555 to 1629, and distinguished as having been Rubens' teacher, a picture lent to us by Dr. Anton Gloetner.

And now to return to the Ralph Cross Johnson room, we may study here an early and interesting Flemish "Virgin and Child," by Bernard van Orley (1493-1542), a Belgian who studied in Italy and became an imitator of Raphael. The mother sits, clasping her son, while the smiling child holds an apple, symbol of the fruit of the tree of life. The background is carefully detailed, and scholars find in it, on the right side, a story of war, and on the other, peace. The

mother's feet are bare, as disclosed by the lifting of her robe.

Next we come to our great Rubens' "Holy Family," one of the most interesting of Madonna pictures in our gallery, and very possibly an original. Peter Paul Rubens was born on June 28, 1577, the eve of St. Peter and Paul day, hence his name. He lived to 1640, and in the richness of his painting he suggests the Italian schools, particularly the Venetian. Although his home was in Antwerp, Rubens was sent on commissions for the king of France and lived an extremely busy and successful life.

RUBENS TWICE MARRIED.

He was twice married, being devotedly attached to his wife in both instances. After the death of his first wife, Isabella Brandt, he sometimes represented her portrait in his large groups, along with the face of his second wife, both of them very beautiful women, and frequently painted by him. In our Rubens picture here, we have no doubt a portrait group. It is easy to prove that the St. Joseph is a picture of the artist, by comparing Rubens' own portrait painted by himself, in which the features, especially the nose, are distinctly similar.

The Madonna, so kind and motherly, is probably the first wife, Isabella Brandt, with their own little son as the Infant Saviour—all children are divine—while the elderly Saint Elizabeth is said to be Rubens' own mother. If she were not thus named in the picture, we might possibly mistake her for Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin, but Saint Anne

is usually represented as more youthful, though they were probably contemporaries.

Still another beautiful Madonna here, which cannot be overlooked, is the Govaert Flinck, by a Dutch genre and portrait painter, a pupil of Rembrandt. This Madonna is holding the Divine Child to her bosom for sustenance. The picture is a pleasing one, and has the strong characters of the artist, in composition, broad treatment, warmth of color in flesh tones, natural pose, animation and feelings of tenderness.

We may believe this work belongs to Govaert Flinck's later period, when he was influenced by the

Flemish School and by the Spanish Murillo, for the Dutch School in general is noted for realistic rather than religious quality in its painting.

If we had time we would step through the gallery to look at a genuine old Spanish work, Ribera's "Job and His Comforters," a large picture of most interesting composition, by the third most famous artist in Spain.

But before we go, let us examine a few modern religious subjects, and see what is the difference between the Renaissance painting and that of our nineteenth century. Will Hickox Low, an American artist, living in New York, born in Albany in 1853, has a pleasing

DEFAULTERS IN MEXICO HAVE NO FEAR OF LAW

By L. P. KIRBY,

Universal Service.

MEXICO CITY, Mex., Dec. 24.—SEARCH for Eduardo S. Diaz, paymaster of the Chamber of Deputies, who disappeared with about 250,000 pesos, has so far failed, but it has resulted in the apprehension of another pilfering government employee of a minor grade, who returned to Mexico City after squandering his loot. He was J. Trinidad Mendoza, who is accused of stealing \$10,000 from a safe in one of the offices of the Department of Commerce and Industry.

Mendoza, according to his reported confession, when left alone in the office of Lito J. Ruvalcaba, noticed that the door of the safe was open. Looking inside, he saw the money

to put it into his pocket and walk away. He made a pleasure trip to the northern part of Mexico and, when funds ran low, decided to return to the capital.

Return of such men is not unusual. Some are even seen by their victims, but no effort is made to arrest them. Some time ago, the administrator or manager of a hotel here ran away with considerable money belonging to the hotel and some cash that had been left with him by guests. He had been a major in one of the revolutionary armies and was fond of wearing something resembling a uniform and riding horseback in the avenues and parks.

After his departure with the money, nothing was seen of him for a time.

Then he boldly reappeared and returned to his old haunts and his old habits of display.

A guest recognized him and told the proprietor of the hotel that the runaway manager had reappeared in the capital.

"I know it," replied the proprietor. "I saw him myself. He was sitting in a chair in front of a popular cafe on the Paseo de Reforma. But what would I get if I had him arrested? There would be a scandal and much loss of time at the police station and in the courts. It is better to stand the loss."

So the recreant manager still rides or strolls through the avenues. Some day he may get another chance to pocket a little money that does not belong to him.

Diaz, the missing paymaster of the Chamber of Deputies, is supposed to have taken a woman with him when he disappeared. If he really has such a companion, it is believed that his capture would not be difficult, if active search is made for him.

The young paymaster was a member of a good family here and had many friends. Great regret is expressed because of his downfall and the wrecking of what had seemed to be a promising career. Careful checking of the handling of funds, it is said, would prevent such thefts of public money and prevent scandals. A number of incidents similar to that of the disappearance of Diaz have been reported. Not long ago a paymaster in Durango vanished with about \$200,000, and is supposed to have crossed the border in an automobile with his plunder.

man of mild and winning face, surrounded by children of all ages. A second work by the same artist is evidently a portrait study of the same model, called "Christ Before Pilate," representing merely a profile view of the subject. Mr. Beck has twenty paintings of the "Life of Christ" in the Brooklyn Institute Museum. Ours belong to the Evans collection, and they are favorites with the American public.

But if we are not too tired, before we go, let us glance also at modern symbolical pictures, which represent, perhaps, our closest approach to the religious. These works were inspired by Pre-Raphaelite influence of the nineteenth century, a group of British painters, led by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. They sought to return in their work to the sincerity and simplicity which characterize Art before Raphael's time of perfect expression.

ONE BY ELIHU VEDDER.

Here is Elihu Vedder's exquisitely painted "Cup of Death," two mystical, weird figures, one an Angel offering the other a chalice, illustrative of Fitzgerald's lines in his "Rubaiyat" translation:

"So when that angel of the darker drink At last shall find you by the river's brink And offering his cup, invite your soul Forth to your lips to quaff, you shall not shrink!"

Writer Tells of Artist Who Painted His Lovely Wife as Central Figure

artist, that it had to be removed for a while to the Corcoran, then back to the White House, until now it has come here to stay, and it is ours, yours and mine, for keeps. Watts painted three of these, but this was the first. One of the others is in the Tate Gallery, London, and the third in the Luxembourg, Paris. Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" have furnished subjects for the legend of the "Holy Grail," which greets us in a large symbolical picture at our entrance to the National Museum, typifying the lines:

"My good blade carves the casques of men, My tough lance thrusteth sure, My strength is as the strength of ten, Because my heart is true."

"Sometimes on lonely mountain-mere I leap on board, ho helmsman steers, I float till all is dark."

This story of Sir Galahad was the nineteenth century revival of poetic tradition in art. What shall be the inspiration of the twentieth century? Shall we not look for it in an awakened sense of joy in art from among our people as a whole? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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